

# Release

from the South Carolina Forestry Commission



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## **SC State Forester to receive prestigious Gifford Pinchot Medal**

*Kodama honored for lifelong commitment and contributions to North American forestry*

South Carolina State Forester Gene Kodama has been selected to receive the Society of American Foresters' Gifford Pinchot Medal. One of the most esteemed forestry awards in the nation, the medal is presented every two years to a forestry professional in recognition of exceptional contributions to the administration, practice and development of forestry in North America.

Nominees for the Gifford Pinchot Medal must have demonstrated exemplary actions that further the field of forestry by making an indelible mark on the profession and being a person of action.



SC State Forester Henry "Gene" Kodama

Endorsements for Kodama's nomination came from multiple state, national and international leaders in forestry and the forest products industries who pointed out a variety of contributions. Kathy Abusow, president and CEO of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, wrote in her testimonial, "Gene led the South Carolina Forestry Commission to third-party certification of its five state forests to both the SFI Standard and the American Tree Farm Standard, highlighting that state forests are responsibly managed. By advancing the cause of forest certification, Gene has added to South Carolina's reputation as a sustainability leader in the global marketplace."

SAF will present the Gifford Pinchot Medal to Kodama at its national convention in Baton Rouge, La., Wednesday, Nov. 4.



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*Gifford Pinchot is widely credited as being America's first forester and the father of the conservation movement in North America. In 1892 Pinchot began the first systematic forest management plan in North America on the Biltmore estate in North Carolina. Seeing a need for a national resource management organization, Pinchot brought about the establishment of the Forest Service in 1898 with the help of President Theodore Roosevelt. The National Forest system and forest policy as we know them today are a result of Pinchot's efforts. In addition to establishing the Forest Service, Pinchot founded the Society of American Foresters in 1900. He served as its president from 1900-08 and again from 1910-11. He was elected an SAF Fellow in 1918. Gifford Pinchot brought a professional approach to all his endeavors, the Forest Service, natural resource conservation, and the SAF. His actions have left an indelible mark on the profession of natural resource management.*